

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph, lines 1-2 at page 3 with the following amended paragraphs:

This objective is accomplished by a masking tape, which is characterized in greater detail in the claims below.

The masking tape comprises:

- a) a heat resistant adhesive tape with a flexible backing and a pressure-sensitive adhesive composition,
- b) a masking material, which is laminated in the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, has good adhesion to paint and a good absorptive capacity, as well as
- c) a masking sheet, which is laminated onto the very same edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition,
- d) the masking sheet completely covering the masking paper at the side, where the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition of the adhesive tape is, and, with that, backing the masking paper in the glued-on state.

Another embodiment comprises the adhesive tape as a heat-resistant adhesive tape for the automobile painter, a so-called fine line tape, with a heat resistance especially at temperatures up to 130°C (1 hour), especially one with a sheet backing of polypropylene or particularly of soft PVC.

Application No. 09/844,083
Applicant: Oliver Nickel
Amendment in Response to Office Action dated December 11, 2003

The adhesive tape is contemplated to be 15 to 75 mm wide and, in particular 19 to 33 mm wide.

The masking material consists of paper, woven fabric, nonwoven fabric or a sheet capable of adhering.

It is further contemplated that the masking material is unbleached Kraft paper, having a weight of 30 to 40 g/m² and a width especially of 15 to 50 cm and particularly of 20 to 40 cm.

The masking sheet has a thickness of 7 to 40 µm and especially of 8 to 20 µm, consists especially of polyolefin, particularly polyethylene and especially is corona pretreated, and the width, in particular, is 0.5 to 2 m.

In another embodiment, the masking sheet is folded so that it can be extended, follows, in particular, the external dimensions of the masking material and is folded against this in accordion fashion.

In another embodiment, the edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive composition, to which the masking material adheres, is 1 to 5 and particularly 2 to 4 mm wide and the thereon adjoining edge region of the pressure-sensitive adhesive

Application No. 09/844,083
Applicant: Oliver Nickel
Amendment in Response to Office Action dated December 11, 2003

composition, to which the masking sheet adheres, is 1 to 5 and, in particular, 2 to 4 mm wide.

In another embodiment, the masking tape is rolled up into a roll, the masking sheet being folded and the height of the roll corresponding approximately to the width of the masking material plus the width of the adhesive tape.

The invention also contemplates the use of the masking tape for masking parts, which are not to be painted, especially when painting automobiles.